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256

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland REPORT

SUBJECT Polish Resistance to the Communist Regime DATE DISTR. 25 January 1955

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This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

25X1

Resistance Groups

- [redacted] 25X1
2. [redacted] between 1949 and 1952 there were three or four instances when the bus travelling between Lomza (N 53-11, E 22-05) and Pisz (N53-38 E21-48) was held up by a gang of three or more men. Only one time was money taken from the conductor. At all times, police and UB (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa - Security Office) personnel who were riding the bus were relieved of their weapons, money, and in certain cases, of some of their clothes. (As the district technical director for the State Vehicular Communications (Państwowa Komunikacja Samochodowa - PKS) in Olsztyn [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] After 1952 there were no more such occurrences. [redacted] 25X1
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3. Up until about 1952, defacement of government property was still in evidence in the form of writing on walls of government buildings. Since then, however, [redacted] had seen none. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

Passive Resistance, Strikes, and Slowdowns

4. [redacted] perhaps the strongest indication of passive resistance was attendance at church services. He said that during certain Catholic holy days of obligation, such as Corpus Christi, large numbers of parishioners attended church services, despite the fact that the government sponsored local outings on the same days designed to draw the crowds from church by tempting offers of free food and drinks. 25X1
5. Regarding absenteeism or slowdowns [redacted] these actions were regarded as indications of sabotage, and [redacted] people involved in such actions were treated as saboteurs. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] strikes and demon- 25X1
strations were incidents permissible only in the West. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

Government Restrictions

6. [redacted] there were many government restrictions imposed upon the people to which they were opposed. However, they did not complain much for fear of arrest. 25X1
7. One example of government restriction was the restriction on the sale of food. At the meat markets [redacted] people openly complain that they could only buy soup bones in fairly decent quantity; there was no meat. It was believed that the meat was either transported to the USSR or was being canned for Soviet consumption while the Poles had to be satisfied with bones. 25X1
8. Another example was the restriction on the sale of radio sets. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] most Poles wanted to own radios but could not afford them. A small table radio cost about 900 zlotys. Larger sets cost between 1,100 and 2,000 zlotys. Party members and officials were permitted to buy radios on time payments and took advantage of this concession. The average citizen was required to pay cash and found it impossible to do so since the price of a radio represented several months pay to him. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] there was no open restriction against listening to broadcasts.) 25X1

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-3-

25X1

9. Still another example was disproportionate taxation. If the government wished to destroy a person, it merely raised his taxes to the point where he could not pay them. This occurred despite the fact that other people in similar positions were not affected.
10. [] the following anecdote [] 25X1
[] illustrate [] point: A Jew who had a counter- 25X1
feiting machine fell out of the good graces of the local authorities. Consequently, a large tax was assessed on him. When he managed to pay it, the next assessment was double the original figure. Displeased with his ability to pay this high tax as well, the officials again doubled his taxes. This "game" continued until the Jew appeared at the local tax office with the counterfeiting machine, stating, "Here is my machine, I cannot possibly turn out money fast enough to pay taxes, so you may as well have it."

Attitude of People Towards the Regime

11. The attitude of the people toward the Communist government seemed to be one of passive acceptance. For a long time people lived in the hope of being liberated from the Communists. Then, after all the years of Communist rule and display of might, the people felt that they had to accept it. [] "Their spirit seems to have been broken and they appear to be like robots that are pushed around." 25X1

Communist Gain in Power

12. The fact that the people assumed this attitude of acceptance toward the Communists seemed an indication that the Communists were gaining ground in Poland [] 25X1

Resistance by the Populace

13. [] up until 1950, many Poles could have been persuaded 25X1
without too much effort to take up arms openly to resist the Communist regime in Poland. Because of the fear and terror the Communists have spread throughout the populace since then [] 10 to 15% 25X1
could be regarded as a high figure. The Communists have had their way too long and have paraded too much strength for the people to think of opposing them. In addition, he believed that the failure of the Western powers to aid or support the Polish people had created a negative attitude towards the West among the Poles. [] 25X1
properly organized and equipped by outside sources, a maximum of 15% of the people could be counted upon to show open resistance in Poland.

Anti-Semitism

14. Anti-Semitism did exist at the time of STALIN's death but to a minor degree. It was somehow related to the purported Moscow "doctors' plot" which was later discredited. [] that in following the 25X1
Party line, certain Party members of Jewish extraction were removed from office. This was only hearsay and [] no specific 25X1
examples of such actions. [] the general attitude of the 25X1
people seemed anti-Semitic. In conversation, they agreed that Hitler had done a good job in eliminating the Jews. This attitude seemed to disappear after the Moscow "doctors' plot" was discredited.

Military Desertions

15. [] no military desertions other than the case of one of the 25X1
Polish pilots who escaped in a jet plane. [] one of the 25X1
workers at the factory [] came from the same 25X1
vicinity in Silesia as the pilot. [] all the members 25X1
of the pilot's family, including distant cousins, were arrested. [] 25X1
[] 25X1

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-4-

25X1

Civilian Disaffection

16. Civilian disaffection was very difficult to determine. [] 25X1
 [] people constantly "murmur under their breath" but nobody cared
 to openly complain or voice opinions. [] about once a month, 25X1
 the papers printed a case of an individual who was arrested because he
 voiced an anti-state opinion. These people were tried for sabotage since
 their statements were "detrimental to the state". [] cited one instance 25X1
 [] A German named Lingenu, who had accepted
 Polish citizenship, was heard to remark at work in Kiemberg, near 25X1
 Olsztyn, that the Communists "are only here temporarily". Someone heard
 him make the remark, reported it, and Lingenu was arrested shortly
 after. He was kept in a jail in Bartoszyce (N 54-15, E 20-48) and was
 released after about nine months. [] the reason for 25X1
 his release was a drive for German-Polish friendship which was being
 sponsored by the government at the time.

The Regime's Effect on Youth

17. [] the effect the regime had upon Polish youth was 25X1
 "tremendous".¹ Great effort was concentrated on the primary school
 children to ensure that their education was conducted along purely
 Communist lines. The regime intended to mold them into solid Communists
 before they reached their twenties. [] when the 25X1
 generation now in school grew up, the Communists would be all-powerful
 in Poland and there would be no chance of eliminating them.
18. The older generation was coerced and terrorized, but not too much effort
 was exerted to convert them to Communism. Since it was felt that by
 the time the children were formed into hardened Communists the older
 generation would have passed away.
19. The youth in the ZMP (Zwiazek Mlodziezy Polskiej - Polish Youth Union)
 availed themselves of membership in order to better their positions
 socially and economically. They were expected to eventually be con-
 verted to the Communist Party line and the Party felt that the
 minority which failed to do so could be taken care of with no great
 effort.

Resettlement of Population

20. Despite the fact that a large part of the population had been resettled
 from parts of Poland that had undergone a change of administration,
 there were still many Germans in that part of East Prussia which was
 placed under Polish administration. [] there were many 25X1
 villages in which the population was predominantly German. One such
 village, Dywity (N 53-51, E 20-29), near Olsztyn, was about 95%
 German. In July 1954, many Catholic German priests were being trans-
 ferred to areas closer to the Soviet border. [] this was 25X1
 being done by order of pro-government church superiors. The area from
 which these priests were being resettled appeared to be centered around
 the city of Olsztyn and vicinity. [] only two priests [] 25X1
 were permitted to remain because they seemed to be pro-regime. [] 25X1
 stated that he knew personally of about 10 German priests who were
 transferred to new posts near the Soviet border. All of these were
 replaced by Polish priests. They were permitted to take 50 kg. of
 clothing and other possessions with them. No reason was given for
 their transfer but the popular assumption was that such priests were
 influential with the remaining German populace and were considered
 dangerous. The German parishioners signed petitions requesting that
 the priests be permitted to remain but the request was not granted.

25X1

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-5-

25X1

Security Forces

21. [redacted] the UB used men with [redacted] past police records as informants. [redacted] a man, whose name [redacted] no longer remembered, who had stated "I only have to keep my ears open here and there and report to the right people, and I don't have to work for a living." 25X1
25X1
25X1
22. [redacted] the UB also established small nets under the guidance of agents to work among the local populace in order to ferret out people with anti-regime feelings. [redacted] agents, at times, checked the people who attended church. At one time [redacted] the public prosecutor from Olsztyn leave [redacted] the church when the assistant prosecutor was entering, and [redacted] they were there to observe the people attending services. 25X1
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23. [redacted] in one case, a man (name unknown [redacted]) who was imprisoned had a brother who was a member of the KBW (Korpus Bezpieczenstwa Wewnetrznego - Internal Security Corps). Sometime during 1953, while escaping, the prisoner was accosted by a guard who in turn was attacked by the escapee's brother, the KBW man. Shortly after, the brothers were apprehended and [redacted] both were sentenced to death. 25X1
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Resistance Potential

24. [redacted] 25X1

Resistance by Religious Groups

25. [redacted] 25X1

Allied Support

26. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the majority of the people residing in Olsztyn were either German or persons resettled from areas east of the Bug River, now Soviet territory. [redacted] Neither group had any love for the Russians or Communism. However, these people would have to have definite proof that security personnel and Party activists would be removed. They would also have to see visible evidence of equipment and weapons with which they could show open resistance. On the other hand [redacted] if ever the situation arose where the Allied forces would be approaching such areas, the Soviets would remove all persons suspected of being against them in advance, thereby eliminating any possibility of such occurrences. 25X1
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1. [redacted] 25X1

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